

**SPORTS:**

Southern's basketball squads continued their woes against perennial MIAA bottom-dwellers SBU... pages 11-12

THE

CHART

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE, JOPLIN, MO 64801-1595

VOLUME NO. 58, ISSUE NO. 14

ARTS SHOWCASE:

Find out how Southern's artists find inspiration page 7

**HAVING A BALL**

Matt Reid, freshman undecided major, hordes a bunch of freebies at a recent basketball game. Fans have been treated to more than freebies this year at Lion basketball games, their record is 13-8.

STUDENT LIFE BEAT

Safety concerns heighten after Guatamalan incident

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It's safe to travel abroad? That question has been on the minds of college administrators, parents, and students following the recent incident in Guatemala where a group of college students were ambushed and raped by terrorists.

The issue of student safety weighs heavily on the mind of Richard Massa, director of the Institute for International Studies, as the College sends more and more students overseas.

"You're always worried," he said. "I have to confess I worried about *Chart* students when

they used to drive to Carthage to pick up the paper and the roads were icy."

According to Massa, this academic year the College began requiring students and their parents to sign a release and indemnity agreement in order to receive grant money for foreign travel. Students and parents also receive the Institute's policy statement and additional information on how to promote travel safety.

Student LifeBeat

These special feature stories are designed specifically for you the student. If you have any suggestions, please call 623-9311.

A signature on a release form, however, does not necessarily absolve the College of any legal liability.

"That's a question that hasn't been answered in the courts," Massa said.

The latest issue of *International Educator* cites several such cases of lawsuits against colleges and universities currently pending in courts. Details are available online at http://www.nafsa.org/publications/ie/fall97_winter98/last.html.

Although risks cannot be completely eliminated, Massa said the College takes certain precautions.

"We don't have any planned trips into particularly dangerous areas," he said.

"Accidents can happen anywhere, but we steer away from places where there is a pattern of problems."

In addition, Massa said the College abides by advisories issued by the State Department and the Centers for Disease Control.

"As I understand it, the professors [in the Guatemala incident] ignored State Department advisories," he said.

Massa stressed the importance of keeping abreast of world news. Information may be easily obtained on the Internet.

"The College belongs to an organization

Playing it safe

Top tips from experts about international travel

■ Don't carry everything in one place.

■ Never carry large amounts of cash.

■ Keep list of credit card numbers brought with you.

■ Keep list of your insurance agents and their numbers.

■ Mark all luggage inside and out with name and address.

TURN TO SAFETY, PAGE 6

HIGHER EDUCATION**66**

If the casino money wasn't there, the legislature would find it somewhere else.

Rep. Todd Akin
R-St. Louis

Gaming receipts account for only 2.8 percent of funding

By TAMMY SPICER
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

There is not as much educational funding floating off Missouri rivers as some might expect.

"In 1997, riverboats contributed \$177 million toward education," said Harold Bailey, Missouri Gaming Commission public information officer. "The money goes into a fund called Gaming Proceeds for Education, and the General Assembly appropriates out of it."

Missouri riverboats are required by law to give 10 percent of their adjusted gross receipts to the fund for education. Last year's amount, \$177 million, accounted for 2.8 percent of the educational budget appropriations. In 1997, state funding for education, including elementary, secondary, and higher education, totaled \$4.2 billion, according to Russ Hembree, Senate staff attorney.

"Casinos only affect a couple percent of our budget," said Rep. Todd Akin (R-St. Louis). "If the casino money wasn't there, the legislature

would find it somewhere else."

Currently, the legality of several of the riverboats in Missouri is in question. A change in the constitution was made by the voters in 1994. The change allowed games of chance, including slot machines and roulette, to be played only upon the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, Akin explained. Some of the licensed riverboats in the state are effectively land-based operations with a moat of river water constructed around it, creating the term "boats in moats," Akin said.

There are 16 licensed riverboat

gambling facilities in Missouri, but the legality of nine are in question, according to Bailey.

In December, the Missouri Supreme Court ruled, in a case brought forward by Akin, the boats are not complying with the law because they are not truly located on the Missouri or Mississippi rivers.

Games of skill can be made legal anywhere in Missouri by a legislative law. The games of chance on the "boats in moats" are what is causing the legal problems.

Now it is in the hands of the gaming

commission to put the casinos into compliance with the Supreme Court's ruling.

"The [casino gaming] industry is so powerful, has so much money, and so many lawyers," Akin said. "It appears they may be beyond regulation."

Even if the nine facilities are forced to shut down, Akin said the gamblers will simply move their business to the boats that are in compliance with their river location.

"Fortunately, casinos don't have their hooks embedded too deeply into the state of Missouri," he said.

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What's Inside



AROUND CAMPUS:

Dr. Kexi Liu demonstrates the power of meditation physically and emotionally through Tai Chi... page 6



1 02/02/98 Lot #17 10:30 a.m. Jennifer Couch, freshman undecided major, contacted security and reported someone had damaged her 1997 Dodge vehicle while it was parked in Lot 10 between 8:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. The front center and left front of the vehicle sustained damage of white scuff marks. There are no suspects at the time of report.

All proceeds of all advertising go to The Chart, the student newspaper of Missouri Southern State College.

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SUPERIOR SERVICE AWARD

Southern awards staff

College honors three with plaques, cash

By BETH HAMILTON
STAFF WRITER

For the first time at Missouri Southern, staff members are being formally recognized by the College for their contributions to the campus.

On Dec. 11, three support staff members were honored with the first "Superior Service" awards. There were three \$500 awards for three categories of non-academic staff.

Nancy Messick, administrative secretary to the vice president for academic affairs; Jeff Pooley, computer center service coordinator; and Billy Green, Reynolds Hall custodian, were all recognized with this award.

Dr. John Tiede, senior vice president, caught the idea from Rod Surber, news bureau manager, who thought it would be nice for staff members to get an award as well as faculty members.

"It's a good way to recognize the ones that are performing outstandingly," Tiede said.

Dr. Terri Agree, director of human resources, was then tossed the idea. She called other colleges and universities to get ideas and policies. It took a year to get things together.

"The hardest thing about this whole process is that there were so many deserving people of this award, it was really hard to limit it to three," she said. "So many people go the extra mile that we would like to recognize."

Messick has been with Southern for 21 years, after graduating from the College with a degree in office administration. Her main duties include coordinating paperwork coming from the chairs of committees, putting out the schedule of classes booklet each semester, and doing secretarial work for Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs.

"I was just very pleased," she said about receiving the award. "It feels like a group award for the secretaries."

"Without the good work of the other departmental, deans' secretaries, and other academic areas, I can't do my job at the other end," she said.

Green received the award after working at Southern for seven years.

"It was nice to get an award from the College," he said. "I appreciate the faculty and staff in Reynolds Hall — they're the reason I come here every day."

"It's good for the faculty and staff. It's a good goal to work for."

That is one of the things Agree was looking for.

"I wanted to have a mechanism in place to recognize support services provided by support personnel," she said.

Pooley has been on campus since 1996.

Tiede presented the recipients with a cash award and an engraved plaque during an Employee Appreciation Luncheon.

"I was real pleased," he said. "I thought for the first time we had a large number of nominations."

OFFICE OF ASSESSMENT

College slates test for Feb. 25

By MARILYN TAFT
STAFF WRITER

Some seniors may view Senior Assessment Day as a trip to the dentist, but the test provides invaluable information for Missouri Southern.

"The biggest reason [to assess] for us is to improve," said Dr. Delores Honey, director of assessment and institutional research.

Senior Assessment Day is Wednesday, Feb. 25. All classes will be dismissed that day, but night classes will meet.

"I think it's probably not a waste of time, but I enjoyed having the day off," said Jennifer Stellwagen, senior biology major. "I think we take the test we took our freshman year, and then we take a test in our major area of study."

"I could use the day to do my physics homework instead of taking the test," said Stuart Price, senior biology major.

All seniors with 90 or more hours who plan to graduate in May, July, or December 1998 will be asked to complete one of three assessment instruments: the ACT COMP, the Assessment of Reasoning and Communicating (ARC), or the Academic Profile from ETS. Some will also complete a Student Opinion Survey.

Southern began assessing seniors in the 1980s, before the state mandate. Honey said the assessment tests are used for two main reasons. One is to see where test scores are high, thus indicating a successful program. On the other hand, low assessment scores indicate which programs might need improvement.

"We have made very big decisions in terms of curriculum down the years [due to assessment]," Honey said.

The state uses the assessments to determine if provided funding is utilized for credible programs.

"You can assume students learn what you teach, but how do you know what they learn?" Honey said. "That's what the test is about."

The assessment program includes several parts. The general education or core curriculum assessment occurs on Senior Assessment Day. Each department then assesses students in their majors as a separate assessment. Southern encourages departments to set guidelines when assessing seniors.

"Every department is different, the culture is different, but they need their licensures," Honey said. "Tests may be different. We want them to design or use whatever tests they think are best to find out about their programs."

During the core curriculum assessment, students will be asked to complete the ACT COMP, which shows the interaction of six objectives, Honey said. Three of these are content related, either functioning within social institutions, using science and technology, or using the arts. Three are process related: communicating, solving problems, and clarifying values. Each test question intertwines any two of these objectives.

"The skills you have in your major will get you that first job," Honey said. "The type of skills that your core curriculum is developing will get you a promotion."

Southern provides a free breakfast or lunch before the test depending on the session the student is scheduled for. Breaks are offered during the test. □

CAMPUS SECURITY

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Students were shocked when they received warnings or citations for parking illegally this semester.

Bill Boyer, chief of security, reported issuing 857 citations last semester compared to 1,938 citations during the fall 1996 semester. He estimated security issued 400 to 500 citations the first week of this semester.

"I parked in the same place all last semester and did not get a ticket," said Ivy Hagedorn, freshman international studies major. "First day of this semester I got a warning."

Boyer offers an explanation on why enforcement is increasing over last semester.

"We had a computer down for [a month] and we were unable to write as many citations as we normally do," he said. "We enter them into a computer. We did some slacking off during that time."

The computer system sends citation information to the business office each month.

Security was also an officer short during the fall, Boyer said. During that time, enforcement of parking was not as effective as usual.

Dr. John Tiede, senior vice president, said the

MISSOURI SOUTHERN FOUNDATION



TIM WILSON/The Chart

Nastia Bokova (right), senior management major calls a possible donor during part of the Missouri Southern Foundation Phonathon Tuesday. Elena Popova, senior economics and finance major, offers words of encouragement to her counterpart.

Group kicks off annual fund-raiser

More than 200 faculty, students, alumn

Help in Phonathon

By ERIC GRUBER
STAFF WRITER

Don't hang up the phone just yet. It could be the Missouri Southern Foundation calling for help.

The Foundation began its 16th annual Phonathon Sunday, and it continues through Feb. 12. There are afternoon shifts from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. and evening shifts from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

More than 200 callers and assistants, faculty, students, past donors, and alumni are calling to ask for support from businesses and other contributors. The funds raised support faculty and student development, lecture programs, intern-

ships, scholarships, the International Piano Competition, and other campus activities.

This year's theme is "Calling for the Future."

"We've contributed over \$1 million over the years to the College," said Sue Billingsly, Foundation director. "Last year alone we raised around \$200,000."

This year, the goal is to raise \$221,000. At the beginning of the Wednesday afternoon session, the Foundation already had raised \$194,000.

"We're real pleased with the way things are going," Billingsly said.

Callers meet at the Alumni House on campus and spend afternoons and evenings asking for support.

Tori Vicsik, junior vocal music major and student senator, is participating in her third Phonathon.

"The first year I did it because they asked me to and they didn't have any-

body to sign up for that time slot," Vicsik said. "It's great fun."

The atmosphere is relaxed and without pressure, and refreshments are provided throughout the course of the afternoon or evening. Competitions measure who can be the most productive with their phone calling skills.

"The kids enjoy it more than they think they're going to," said Jim Bray, head of the art department.

Bray said he is pleased with the support of the community.

"Ninety-nine percent of the people are very positive, very supportive," he said.

Bray believes some of the participating students are apprehensive about calling people and asking for money.

"I was kind of nervous about doing it because I'm not one who likes to call people up and beg for money," said Julie Fisher, sophomore early childhood education major. □

STUDENT SENATE

Three groups receive funding

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After just a bit of haggling, the Student Senate managed to allocate funds to three Missouri Southern organizations Wednesday night.

Alpha Kappa Delta, the sociological honors society, asked for an allocation of \$1,000 to fund a trip to the Midwest sociology meeting April 11 in Kansas City. The Senate finance committee recommended the students receive \$850 of their original request.

Newly selected Senate treasurer Alan Brady said the finance committee was focusing on meeting the needs of the majority of the student body.

"We want to try to stretch out the money as far as we can, so as many organizations can benefit as possible," Brady said.

The next group to speak was Sigma Tau Delta, the College's English honors society. The group asked for and received an allocation

of \$1,000 in order to help fund a trip to Anaheim, Calif., for the society's national convention.

Senior senator Zak Kuhlmann then spoke on behalf of the allocation request from Omicron Delta Kappa, a leadership honors society, for \$1,000.

"Basically every group on campus is represented in ODK," Kuhlmann said.

The group plans to use the funds given by the Senate to finance a trip to Knoxville, Tenn., for its national convention.

Though the group originally was given \$800 by the finance committee, the amount was increased to \$900 after discussion of the organization's level of contribution to the College.

All allocation requests are put under scrutiny due to the large number of allocation requests that have already been received this semester, Tiede explained.

Those funds amounted to \$10,085.14 before Wednesday night's allocations were made, according to Brady. □

SENATE COFFERS

Oct. 24 REQUEST:

■ AKD —

Request: \$1,000

Received: \$850

■ STD —

Request: \$1,000

Received: \$1,000

■ ODK —

Request: \$1,000

Received: \$900

CURRENT BALANCE:

\$10,085.14

Missouri Southern's Student Senate allows clubs and organizations made up of students to request up to \$1,000 to pay for group expenses.

NICK PARKER/The Chart



Governor reappoints Wilson for another term

Glen M. Wilson has received Senate confirmation for six more years on Missouri Southern's Board of Regents.

Gov. Mel Carnahan reappointed Wilson, whom he appointed in November 1994 to fill out an unexpired term.

Wilson is president of Wilson Trucking Co.

Sen. Marvin Singleton (R-Seneca) handled the confirmation, with Wilson not asked to appear before a Senate committee. □

Koinonia offers lock-in at local Christian church

A large group of Missouri Southern students will spend this evening locked up at the will of Koinonia.

The club is sponsoring a lock-in at College Heights Christian Church from 9:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.

Participants will be offered recreational activities such as basketball, volleyball, and various other games.

Men are requested to bring chips, and women should bring soda. There will be food at the event.

If anyone has any board games they enjoy, they are welcome to bring them. Any questions about the evening can be answered at 781-LOVE.

College Orientation searches for new leaders

The selection process for the College Orientation Student Leader positions for fall 1998 has begun.

College Orientation Leaders are responsible for the instruction of 15 to 20 freshmen students in an eight-week orientation class.

Applications can be picked up in the Counseling Services Office, room 114, Hanes Hall.

Completed application materials are due by Feb. 27. Personal interviews will be scheduled for the weeks of March 2 and 9. Announcement of the 1998 Orientation Leaders will be made March 13. □

Additional officer, rejuvenated computer allows for more tickets

By JEFF WELLS
STAFF WRITER

Students were shocked when they received warnings or citations for parking illegally this semester.

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Security was also an officer short during the fall, Boyer said. During that time, enforcement of parking was not as effective as usual.

Dr. John Tiede, senior vice president, said the



Missouri Southern campus security officer Everett Howard issues a ticket on Tuesday to an illegally parked vehicle in lot 35 near Matthews Hall and the Physical plant.

TIM WILSON/The Chart

EDITOR'S COLUMN

Car accident brings other finish line

Avoiding the physical activity requirement like the plague has become something of a science to me.

But alas, my adviser conned me into taking it this semester.

I was not putting it off because of laziness or fear of making a fool of myself, but because it hurts me to think that I should be able to do these activities with so much more ease and skill than I'm able.

My memory brings me back to the seventh grade when I joined the cross country team and I had some speed. My fame in sports died a week after the final meet that year, right after a junior high dance. My dad told my brother to wait for the dance to end to give me a ride home.

The drive home was normal, when suddenly he made a wide corner through a yard. I asked him what was wrong, and he said the brakes were not working.

We continued down the road over the speed limit and passed our turn not even slowing down. We continued down the highway without brakes when we came to a steep hill.

The next thing I remembered was sitting in the truck with something red running over my eyes and the sun shining down through the broken windshield.

A woman kept asking me if I was OK, and I said yes in shock, not realizing my condition.

One thing I did notice was dozens of people walking around, including my brother, who was crying in fear of what had happened.

The next few hours were a blur as I was strapped to a stretcher and air-evacuated to the hospital where I rested for hours as X-ray after X-ray were taken of me.

They took off the neck brace as they were drilling through my leg to set a pin to put me in traction.

I looked in a mirror and saw my twisted and broken nose, two black eyes, a busted lip, and two deep cuts on my face.

The doctor then explained that my femur was badly broken. Two and a half weeks later, the doctor decided to try to set my broken leg.

He explained to me and my family that the surgery to repair my leg would consist of drilling several steel pins into my leg.

After three hours of surgery, I woke up with more steel in my leg than bone.

For three weeks, I rested in the hospital, felt pain whenever I moved my leg, and had muscles spasms every night when I tried to get to sleep.

After being in the hospital a month and a half, I went home. I spent that Christmas at home on crutches and over the next months recovered the ability to walk.

Healed but limping, I joined the cross country team that next fall carrying with me about one and a half pounds of steel. I had lost most of my speed but kept going even with a pinching in my knee.

Over the next two years I tried my best to regain my past abilities but never could. Eventually, I gave up on any athletic abilities that I once possessed and went on for the next six years avoiding all athletic activities that I could.

So here, after successfully avoiding athletic activities for five years, I must try to regain any skill or talent I may possess. And I hope I won't make a fool of myself. □

CHART

PUBLIC FORUM

Friday, February 6, 1998



OUR EDITORIAL

Unsigned editorials on this page express the opinions of a majority of The Chart editors. Observations elsewhere on the page represent independent viewpoints of columnists, cartoonists, and readers.

Look no further than Joplin

When the governor of our great state decided to appropriate funds for our beleaguered library, sighs of relief were almost simultaneously muted by the notion Missouri Southern would have to come up with a remaining portion.

More than \$650,000 is needed on Southern's part, but College President Julio Leon does not fear that figure. Publicly denying he has an idea how to go about raising the money, his coolness suggests he has something up his sleeve.

There are the standard methods of garnering the cash: bonds, Missouri Southern Foundation, corporate sponsorship, etc. There are other ways which are obviously less appealing.

Does Leon have any idea how many cars he'd have to wash in order to raise that kind of capital?

Does Dr. John Tiede, senior vice president, know how many dozens of cookies would have to be bought to pay for this?

Is it possible Dr. Erik Bitterbaum, vice president for academic affairs, could sell that many cheese logs door to door?

Plainly, not viable options. Especially when taken into account the money the governor would give Southern could

be taken away if the College's end of the deal wasn't met. It will be even a harder sell to members of the legislature's budget committees to appropriate funds when there are no assurances the rest of the money will be found.

But there is one more solution to this quandary. That's good, old-fashioned community support. This College is truly a community university. The overwhelming majority of students do come from these parts. In essence, offering the community a chance to be a part of this library project is a chance for them to invest in the future of their children and grandchildren. The community has already nixed plans that would enrich their own lives, with the downfall of the arena project. Affording them first crack to rally behind the library is a way for them to show they do, in fact, support this College. When their children or grandchildren make it to Southern, they will have ensured their offspring will be getting top-of-the-line equipment with this gesture.

With the 1980s long gone, and with it the self-serving attitude, community support of the Spiva Library renovation project would be a huge step to making Joplin and Missouri Southern's relationship more like friends rather than rivals.

Together, the campus and community can show the state we can take care of ourselves. □

YOUR LETTERS

The Chart welcomes letters from readers. Letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Letters should be 300 words or fewer. Submit letters to The Chart office on the third floor of Webster Hall, fax them to (417) 625-9742, or send via e-mail. Our e-mail address: Chart@mail.mssc.edu. Letters are due by noon Monday for publication in that week's edition.

Gray often helps seniors, non-traditionals

I read the letter by a student concerning Dean Gray and access to the use of some equipment. This letter surprised me because I do not know of any person who has been more cooperative in allowing non-traditional students to utilize equipment and facilities than Dean Gray.

He has helped our non-traditional stu-

dents numerous times when computer access was needed, and he has been extremely receptive to the use of equipment by senior citizens in our 60 plus program and the Elderhostel programs we have held on our campus at different times.

I am sure the student was not aware of some extenuating circumstances or that

there was simply some misunderstanding. Dean Gray is an extremely cooperative person interested in the well being of students at Missouri Southern.

Dr. Jerry Williams
Director of continuing education

Alternatives lacking in parking fee increase

While reading the recent *Chart* article, "Commuters will pay more," I began to play with the numbers in my head (something that obviously no one on campus had done before). Our president, Julio Leon, is correct. The 200 percent parking increase is not going to absolutely break many students financially. (Insert starving student's name here) will just buy less Ramen noodles or Always Save Mac & Cheese.

What struck me is that there were alternatives that could have been looked upon more carefully. For one, the new field

house could have been located on or near a field (where the proposed parking lot may be built), which would save the 130 parking spots that will be eliminated.

What the College has asked this fall's first-semester freshman to do is pay 200 percent more than students did last year for 130 less parking spots. (Insert supply and demand quip here.) But what the establishment, er, administration has decided to give back is said freshman is the warm fuzzy feeling that he will get knowing that his \$120 (eight-semester

parking fees, barring "inflation") will go toward building 70 new parking spots for students on campus after he graduates.

Dr. Leon is correct that "Fifteen dollars is still very low compared to what students at other universities have to pay." Correct again. The old reasonable rates are why many of us chose to come to Missouri Southern State College. Do the math. It just doesn't add up.

Timothy Fisher
Sophomore history major

IN PERSPECTIVE

Counting of blessings warms chills

This has never been confirmed, but I think I suffer from that disorder that makes you a little nuts when the seasons change. When the temperature drops and the clouds move in, when winter winds howl, I get depressed.

Part of it is being born and raised in Alabama. Thin blood. To combat the annual melancholy, I follow my gray-haired mother's advice: "count your blessings." And, you know, I am finding the admonition to have a therapeutic quality.



Tom Simpson
Asst. Professor,
Political Science

When the snow flies and we are horrified by the wind chill, I go through the mantra I am thankful for all these blessings. Then, I start listing them to myself. In the last few years, the listing has gotten longer. This year's list is especially lengthy. Blame it on El Nino. Now, I don't plan to share all of my list with you, but I would like to show you the first few.

For instance, I am blessed to be at Missouri Southern. I have no idea how I got here. The route was dangerously circuitous and not to be repeated. Imagine a work environment in which you are surrounded by interesting and stimulating colleagues, you're expected to do a job that is fun, and you get paid! My job description could read: must read, think, and speak. The late Dave Tate used to say that we teach for free; the College just comes by periodically and gives us money. Dave was given to oversimplification, but both of us understood what a pleasure it is to be here.

Which brings me to students. They come in all different shapes and sizes, with different ideas and ambitions, all brimming with life and potential. Walk into a classroom and you can feel the energy of them. In the eight years I have been at Southern, there have been perhaps a half-dozen students without whom I could have lived, but the overwhelming majority are a pleasure to meet and a joy to teach.

I am blessed to have made so many mistakes in my life but to have learned from most of them. To live through your mistakes is to learn humility.

I am blessed to have struggles with two teenage children. Our battles remind me of just how much I love them.

I am blessed to have spent the last 24 years building a life with Mrs. Simpson. Even though I teach political science, it wasn't until I married that I learned the fuller meaning of politics.

I am blessed not to be fabulously wealthy. Knowing my weaknesses, being able to purchase satisfaction for them would have made them dominant in my life. Even worse, to have everything is not to know having nothing.

I'm glad to be my age. I'm old enough to truly not care much what others think about what I do and say, and how I dress and act, but not too old to be completely dismissed. When I was a much younger man I thought I didn't care either, which is why I wore the same clothes as everyone else, and my hair as everyone else, and acted coolly indifferent as everyone else. Age does seem to reorder your priorities.

And, to put an end to this, I am blessed to be constantly surprised by living. Every day I learn something new that makes me realize just how little I actually know. Every day I see the real stuff of life, the mundane, the ordinary, but the essence of it, on display all around me. I am amazed by life's beauty, elemental simplicity, and bewildering complexity.

So, let the cold wind's blow. It is good to be alive. □

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ACP National Pacemaker (1997)
ACP Pacemaker Finalist (1982, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1994, 1997) MCMA — "Best in State" (1993-94, 1996-97)

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THE CHART

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Building models offers enjoyment

Estes includes wife, daughter in easy, inexpensive hobby

By BRIN CAVAN

STAFF WRITER

This Missouri Southern staff member can build a car from the ground up almost as quickly as Detroit.

Chassis, engine, body, and paint job can be completed within a matter of hours.

Of course, the size is much smaller. The cars built by Brian Estes, of Southern's print shop, are the model car variety.

Estes has been a car and model car enthusiast most of his life.

He started building model cars at age 9, and continued the tradition for the next 30 years.

"It's for my own personal enjoyment," Estes said. "It's kind of a jump back to the more innocent, younger years when we did stuff like this."

VOLKSWAGEN

New car revives interest of past

By BRIAN PALMER

ASSISTANT EDITOR

In 1935, Dr. Ferdinand Porsche built the first Beetle prototype, and the car eventually surpassed Ford's legendary Model T in total production.

The Beetle is poised to move the record mark even further when a new Beetle is introduced this year, this after making waves at several car shows when the car was known as "concept one."

"When it first hit the press, we were receiving five to 10 calls a day for the first five to 10 days," said David Russell, sales manager for Joplin's Continental Auto Mall. "This is as much excitement as I've seen about a car in several years."

The amazing thing is, Continental Auto Mall doesn't even have a car yet. It is hoped some will roll on the lot in mid to late March. There also seems to be no demographic constraints to the people interested in the car.

"We are getting calls from 16-year-olds to 70-year-olds," Russell said. "Everybody seems to be excited about the car."

The big question, according to Volkswagen, is: is the new Beetle like the old Beetle?

"The engine's in the front, and it's water-cooled," Russell said. "They're really trying to make it look like the old bug, but it looks quite a bit more contemporary."

Some other differences include



SPECIAL TO THE CHART
People from the age of 16 to 70 are calling Volkswagen dealers to ask about the new Beetle. This version includes a water-cooled engine.

factory air conditioning, a six-speaker cassette stereo system, and dual air bags.

The power plant for these new Beetles will be either a 115-horsepower in-line four-cylinder, or a 90-horsepower diesel engine. A five-speed manual transmission is standard with an optional automatic.

All this will start around \$15,200. Russell believes most will fall into the \$15,500 to \$16,500 range.

"It's a very affordable car," he said. "The average car is about \$20,000. It's well under that."

These are not the only things creating interest in the new Beetle. For Russell, it's something more subtle, more intangible.

"It may be the smartest move since the inception of the original Beetle. □

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CHART AUTOMOTIVE

Model cars, like classic full-size automobiles, have never really gone out of style. They are a nostalgic art for many baby boomers and younger patrons alike.

Model building is not exclusively planes, cars, and trucks.

Hollywood creatures, fantasy cars, and even submarines are created with models.

One of Estes' earlier models was the Beatles' Yellow Submarine.

"I wish I had kept a lot of my old models from when I was a kid," he said.

"I had the Aurora models like the Werewolf, Creature from the Black Lagoon, and the Bride of Frankenstein. Even the ones that are built are worth \$650 to \$1,000 each. One in mint condition and still in the box — you can pretty much ask your price for it."

Building models of automobiles is intricate work. Many builders, like Estes, try to make their models as authentic as possible.

He said many car buffs at auto shows are also involved with making model cars.

"We have been to car shows where they have a '57 Chevy and they get a '57 Chevy model to build and display with their car," Estes said.

He said some shows judge models like the full-size autos.

A show in Oklahoma had modified models.

They were chopped and extended just like modified autos.

In his lifetime, Estes has completed approximately 75 models. He's currently working on three "fantasy" editions of model cars.

Two are Tom Daniels fantasy cars, and one is the "Rat Fink" character from Big Daddy Roth.

Estes' wife and daughter are involved in the hobby.

Daughter Bianca has a full-size '71 Barracuda and is building a model '71 Barracuda.

Building model cars is an inexpensive hobby almost anyone at any age can learn.

There are different levels of complexity, beginning with basic models that snap together, and continuing into the most complex models, which

require cut, design, and paint.

Estes has a miniature paint shop for his models. Models are available at any hobby or specialty store.

Joplin R C Hobbies, Inc. specializes in models, with beginner level autos starting at \$8 and continuing into complex radio-controlled planes that are more expensive.

Maury Bruner, an employee at Joplin R C, said most of the store's patrons are college students or other adults.

"With the plastic models, you learn at your own pace, reading the instructions and practicing, but building and flying the radio-controlled models is quite involved," he said.

Whether a rank beginner or a creator of intricate, detailed models, almost anyone, at any age, can learn and enjoy the craftsmanship of model building.

"That is the beauty of it," Estes said. "A person could start with a minimum investment of \$10 to \$15, including the model. Model building is fun and therapeutic, and there is a great sense of satisfaction when it is completed and you sit back and admire it." □



JASON FOSTER/The Chart
Models come in all shapes and sizes. Brian Estes, Missouri Southern printer, enjoys his 30-year hobby.

CAR COLLECTOR



SPECIAL TO THE CHART
Melissa Locher's 1967 Cougar draws looks and comments when she is driving around town and to work.

Locher chooses classic Cougar

By KEVIN COLEMAN

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

When Melissa Locher decided she wanted a classic car, she knew exactly what she wanted.

Locher, coordinator of disability services at Missouri Southern, set out looking for a 1967 Mercury Cougar last spring.

"I had been shopping around with David (her husband) in the spring and fall for his Ford," she said.

"We had been going to the swap meets and car shows and reading the auto-finder guides. I liked the line and the look of the '67 and '68.

"I remember, as a child, my father had a Cougar that was his pride and joy for some years, so I just keyed into that."

Locher found an ad in an auto

trader publication. A man in Tulsa had a '67 Cougar for sale. She went to check it out.

"When I bought it, it was in primer," she said.

The car ran well, so Locher bought it, much to the surprise of her husband.

"We looked at a couple of cars a month for a couple or three months," said Dr. David Locher, assistant professor of sociology. "But all of them were dramatically overpriced or obviously crap."

"But, in fact, I was surprised when she picked this one. It was in primer, and had headers, and the built up engine. I figured she would want something finished, that ran a little smoother and quieter."

The engine compartment of Locher's car does house an impressive sight.

The engine is a 351-cubic-inch

Windsor with an aluminum intake manifold, chrome valve covers, and a set of four-inch headers.

"It sounds like a top-fuel dragster when you start it up in the morning," David Locher said.

Melissa Locher said the car gets a lot of looks when she drives it around town.

"I'm not sure if it's the noise or the car," she said.

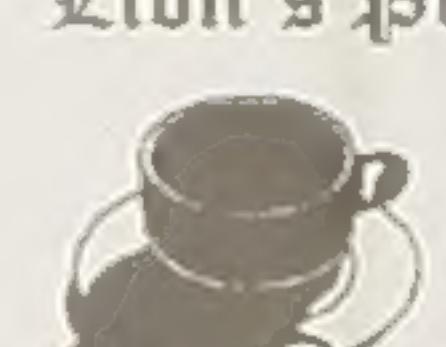
"I think it's the car. Several times, I've been to gas stations and in parking lots. I've got out and somebody's asked about it or talked to me about it."

Locher doesn't plan for the Cougar to be a show car, but just a car she drives.

She enjoys driving it to work, but not every day.

"I kind of go by the weather," Locher said. "If it's really lousy, I don't drive it, or if the road is iced over, I won't." □

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CONTINUING EDUCATION

Courses examine balance of yin, yang

Oriental meditation benefits physical, emotional stability

By JEFF BILLINGTON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Missouri Southern's division of continuing education has always offered classes that are a little bit off the beaten path.

And, since 1992, it has been offering classes based on a 2,000-year-old Taoist philosophy.

"The philosophy believed the world consisted of two forces, the yin and the yang forces," said Dr. Kexi Liu, assistant professor of music.

Liu, who came to the College in 1991, has been teaching a class called Tai-Chi Chuan since the fall of 1992.

"Tai-chi chuan means the fist," he said. "So, tai-chi chuan originally was a martial art. Some people call it shadow boxing. You do this like a shadow."

Liu said it is also known as slow-movement meditation.

He said Chinese medical theory finds tai-chi chuan important for staying healthy.

"The yin and the yang must be balanced," Liu said. "If it is out of balance, you get sick. You have to

keep the yin and the yang balanced inside your body."

He said he learned this exercise in China many years ago, but did not teach it there because of the abundance of classes offered.

"But, I started to teach the Tai-Chi Chuan class when I came to America," Liu said. "I came here in 1984 and I started to teach a class around '86, '87."

In addition to Tai-Chi Chuan, he has also offered a step up from this class called Tai-Chi Swordplay.

"I have offered this Tai-Chi Swordplay for several years," Liu said. "But I have never got enough enrollment. I'm kind of disappointed, and I do want to teach people to play the tai-chi swordplay."

Liu believes the poor enrollment in Tai-Chi Swordplay may be the perception it is dangerous.

"I think some people just think this may be dangerous because of the sword involved," he said. "It's very safe. I would like to say even safer than jogging."

Liu said even though Tai-Chi Swordplay is the more difficult class, Tai-Chi Chuan is recommended first but not required.

"While you do the tai-chi chuan, you hold nothing; you just have hand movement, arm movement, and stance," he said. "When you do tai-chi swordplay, you have to hold the sword so it increases the

difficulty. It's a very elegant exercise."

Liu said the students are usually open minded.

"The people that come to class are very open and they are very



DEBORAH SOLOMON/The Chart

Taking a break from teaching music, Dr. Kexi Liu demonstrates the meditative power of tai-chi swordplay. The class is being offered to Missouri Southern students through the continuing education program.

interested in learning this Oriental exercise form," he said. "I think that's very good."

"He thinks the classes can benefit anyone."

"Tai-chi chuan and tai-chi sword-

play are very, very good exercises for anybody, and anyone doing this can benefit no matter what the condition of your health," Liu said. "If you're a sick man, you can improve your health condition."

HEALTH SERVICES

Nurse offers cold advice

By MARLA HINKLE
STAFF WRITER

It's that time of year again. Sneezing, hacking coughs, sore throats, and runny noses are everywhere.

Some precautionary measures, however, may prevent the onset of the many viruses and colds that plague people everywhere.

"I have noticed a lot of coughing in my classes lately," said Tonie Agree, junior communications major.

"In some of them there are lots of people missing, maybe enough to cancel the class," she said.

Thorough hand washing may be the most important preventative measure to shield against viruses, said Debbie Smith, campus nurse.

"Typically, there isn't much you can do to prevent one," she said. "There was a time that people thought colds and flus were passed by sneezing."

But it has been found that colds are actually spread by hand-to-hand contact," Smith said.

Smith describes the process of contamination as germs being spread by hands being put in the mouth without thinking.

"When a person who is ill touches a doorknob or pencil and leaves those germs there," she said.

"A healthy person comes along and touches the area that has been contaminated and puts their hand to their mouth, then four days later you have a cold," Smith said.

Sometimes a person may not even be symptomatic at the time he or she is contagious.

Making it difficult to tell when someone is a carrier of the virus, Smith said.

Another tip Smith suggested is to immediately dispose of a tissue right away after sneezing and wash your hands.

Some examples of poor health habits that may lead to colds are not eating well, stress, and exhaustion.

To remedy this, Smith suggested eating a well-balanced diet and getting plenty of sleep.

Wintertime heat temperatures are raised and that drastically dries out the air.



JASON FOSTER/The Chart

New campus nurse Debbie Smith examines Noelle Hill, senior psychology major.

This makes the nasal passages more open to irritation and germs, she said.

"To remedy this problem, it would be a good idea to purchase a humidifier and place it in various rooms throughout the house, especially the bedroom," Smith said.

A common myth that Smith discredits is the idea that colds can be caused from cold weather.

Another way that most people get colds is from crowds.

"People are exposed to many people, and when you are crowded inside with the masses, there are no places for those germs to go except in the air and then in the people inside the area," she said.

Smith advises that a person with the following symptoms should go to the doctor immediately: severe headache, ear aches, or facial pain; white patches on the back of your throat or tonsils; chest pains; shortness of breath.

If the cold lasts longer than a week you should consult a physician.

CAB

CAB is bringing the season of hearts and love to the students of Missouri Southern with their annual Valentine's Dance 8-12 p.m. Thursday in the Billingsly Student Center's Conner Ballroom.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

| Today 6 | Saturday 7 | Sunday 8 | Monday 9 | Tuesday 10 | Wednesday 11 | Thursday 12 |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|--|
| Order a CAB Valentine package at the BSC Box Office. Deadline Wednesday, Feb. 11 | 1 p.m.— Kappa Alpha Induction, BSC, 2nd floor 6 p.m.— Basketball vs. NWMSU | 8 p.m.— Prague Chamber Orchestra, Taylor Performing Arts Center | 6 p.m.— Enterprise Pre- Interview Meeting, BSC, Room 310 7 p.m.— Baptist Student Union Quest Fellowship, Baptist Student Union Building | 8:30 a.m.— Allied Health Programs, BSC, Room 314 9 a.m.— Catholic Campus Ministry, BSC 306 Noon— LDSSA, BSC, Room 314 •College Republicans, BSC, Room 306 | Today is the deadline for ordering a CAB Valentine package at the BSC Box Office. 10:45 a.m.— Valentine Buffet, BSC 3rd floor Noon— CAB, BSC, Room 310 5:30 p.m.— Basketball vs. MO Western 9 p.m.— Wesley Foundation Midweek Worship | 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.— Kolonia Lunch, base- ment of Stegge Hall 12:20 p.m.— Model UN, Webster Hall, Room 223 12:20 p.m.— National Broadcasting Society, Webster Hall, KGCS-LP Studio 6:30 p.m.— FCA, BSC, 2nd floor 6:30 p.m.— Kolonia Valentine Banquet, BSC, Room 310 |
| | | | | | | |

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ARTISTIC PHILOSOPHY

Inspiration drives artists

By J.L. GRIFFIN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Merely walking through the halls, there's an aura that exists which can't exist in other buildings. Music molds together from different rooms. Eyes are tickled by the fixtures on the walls or pedestals. Missouri Southern's visual and performing arts buildings even smell inspirational.

It is that intangible element of inspiration that is the common bond of all artists, whether that be actors, painters, sculptors, musicians, or writers. Some artists think inspiration exists in acts many don't perceive as artistic.

Nevertheless, inspiration for performing or creating can be found anywhere — from the most concrete objects like another person to the most abstract like a rainy day.

"I can look at a mud puddle or a dilapidated old building and be inspired," said Lynda Kotis, senior graphic art major. "Action, movement, or rain dripping down the side of something."

Some say the need for inspiration in some art forms varies.

"Yeah, they're mud puddle people," Robert Meeks, assistant professor of music, said laughing. "Our discipline is more tangible, if you can call sound tangible."

Meeks believes there is a common

bond for all teachers of art, though. "One of the teacher's jobs is to recognize this innate talent and pull it out and guide it," he said.

So, can inspiration be taught?

"You can't teach inspiration, but you can create an environment," said Dave Noble, associate professor of art.

In the performing arts, inspiration is just as random for the visual counterparts. Colleen Lafferty, junior speech communication major, has spent many hours working with the theatre department. She believes inspiration is needed as much for those offstage as for the performers.

"As far as design work, you get ideas in the shower a lot," she said, "which makes sense; you're in the right frame of mind, you're relaxed. Anything's possible in the shower."

Inspiration is more of a random occurrence than it is set to a timetable.

"It's people mostly," Kotis said. "Things they do, the way they look, places they are going, that's inspiring to me."

Music often plays a part in inspiring an artist. Painters, sculptors, writers, whatever the form, many produce pieces to music.

"I pick out the music how I feel that day, and it all filters into the work," said Mark Schmidt, senior studio art major. "It has to inspire."

Inevitably there isn't anything in the

universe that can't inspire someone. "I would say anything would inspire someone," Noble said.

"Since there are positive, negative, and bland things, I don't think there is anything that can't inspire," Meeks said. "A murderer was inspired by something, a saint was inspired or motivated by something, a bland person was inspired by bland."

Artists say their hardest pieces are done in class because they lack the inspiration for the work.

"When you're in class, you have to start without being inspired," Kotis said. "You have to be disciplined enough to work through it."

In all, it could be said inspiration is the lifeblood of any work.

"Inspiration is a form of expression," Schmidt said. "I think everyone has a way of expressing themselves; driving a truck if they do that well."



SOUTHERN THEATRE



Matt Morris and Shannan Alley, senior theatre majors, rehearse a scene from "Les Liaisons Dangereuses," which played Oct. 15-18.

Southern actors receive invitation for curtain call

By AILEEN GRONEWOLD
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

When the curtain went down on the last performance of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, the cast and crew thought the show was over. As it turns out, however, they did a curtain call in Kansas City.

The opportunity to perform a 10-minute scene from the play came as a result of a judge's favorable reaction.

"We entered the American College Theatre Festival in the associate category," said Debbie Burbridge, student director for the play. "Someone from one of the schools in our region came and critiqued it. We were competing with schools from eight states."

According to Sam Claussen, associate professor of theatre, this was only the second time Southern Theatre has received this kind of recognition from the ACTF. The first time was two years ago with the production of *Orphans*.

Dr. Patricia Kluh, associate professor of theatre, said they were surprised by the honor.

"The woman who came to do the adjudication had only positive things to say, which surprised some people, because usually they do a critical analysis of both the positive and negative," she said.

Southern was among 18 schools to participate in a showcase, and only three of the schools were from Missouri.

Kluh believes the judge was especially impressed with the acting in the duet scenes.

Burbridge said they selected the "beyond my control" scene, which featured Matt Morris, senior theatre major, as Valmont and Rebecca Braden, junior theatre major, as Madame de Tourvel.

No awards were given for the performances, but according to Burbridge, she and the student designers are up for Kennedy Center awards.

"As a small college, we sometimes get slighted," she said. "This was our chance to show people that Missouri Southern does great stuff. We got a lot of nurturing from Dr. [Jay] Fields and the rest of the department, but it was nice to hear it from someone else, too."



BOOK REVIEW

Covey's 'Habits' stress character

OK, I'm a skeptic. Call me cautious, but I look askance at "bestseller" lists that rank Drew Carey a few lines down from Toni Morrison. Rather than trust the reading tastes of the general populace, I wait until a book gets rave reviews from people I respect before I rush right out to get my hands on a copy.

One such book is Stephen R. Covey's *The Seven Basic Habits of Highly Effective People*. This book's status on the *New York Times* bestseller list could be measured in years rather than weeks, and it also comes highly recommended by the FOA (Friends of Aileen).

Because the title is about as appealing as spinach, I admit I did not rush to get my hands on this book. But a few weeks ago two chance events conspired against me: I found (in the trash) an audio tape set of the book, and my husband and I took a road trip to Tucson. The book won out over the raveling New Mexico landscape, and now I know what everyone is raving about.

The principles Covey outlines in this book stem from his extensive research on success literature in America since 1776. In the first 150 years of our nation's history, Covey discovered character to be the central focus of success strategies.

Since about the 1930s, however, the literature makes a dramatic shift to personality, emphasizing techniques and skills designed to achieve quick results.

The premise of Covey's book is that personality-based success strategies will ultimately fail if they do not produce a change in character. Basically, you can't separate what you do from who you are. Character, Covey says, is a composite of habits.

Covey's seven habits follow a maturity continuum with the first three aimed at private victory and the next three at public victory. The final habit is a comprehensive means of maintaining the first six.

Although the book usually appears in the business section of the bookstores, it has a broad following. Covey's principles are generic enough to encompass boss/employee relationships, salesman/client relationships, husband/wife relationships, parent/child relationships, and friendships.

As you might expect in any self-help book, the language tends to get mired in psychology jargon at

New York Times Best Seller List

The following information is a compilation of the four top-selling hardcover fiction, hardcover nonfiction and paperback business books in the country for the week ending Jan. 17.

Paperback business —

1. *The Partner*
by John Grisham
2. *A Civil Action*
by Jonathan Harr
3. *Windows '95 For Dummies* 2nd ed.
by Andy Rathbone
4. *The Seven Basic Habits of Highly Effective People*
by Stephen R. Covey

Hardcover fiction —

1. *Paradise*
by Toni Morrison
2. *Cold Mountain*
by Charles Frazier
3. *Fear Nothing*
by Dean Koontz
4. *The Winner*
by David Baldacci

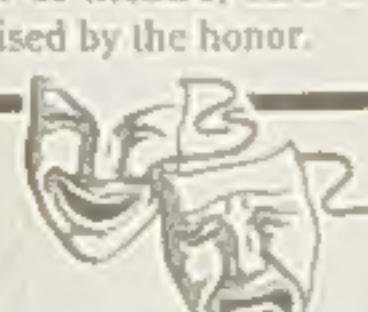
Hardcover fiction —

1. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*
by John Berendt
2. *Angela's Ashes*
by Frank McCourt
3. *Talking to Heaven*
by James Van Praagh
4. *Tuesdays with Morrie*
by Mitch Albom

times, but for the most part Covey keeps it simple. His conversational style and humorous anecdotes make the nutrition more palatable.

Much of what Covey pitches is not new. In fact, it is decidedly old thinking with a fresh twist. Judging from the continued popularity of this book, one would think Americans are no longer satisfied with gloss and image, contrary to the latest presidential polls.

COMING ATTRACTIONS



On Campus

TAYLOR AUDITORIUM
Feb. 25-28—Guys and Dolls
March 6—Carmina Burana
ballet, 8 p.m.
April 18, 19—Beauty and the Beast

MATTHEWS AUDITORIUM

Foreign Films
Feb. 17—Il Grido (The Outcry)
March 3—Page of Madness
March 17—The Promoter
March 31—The Forty-First
April 14—The Torment

WEBSTER AUDITORIUM

Feb. 27—Langston Hughes Celebration, 7 p.m.

Joplin

THE BYPASS
624-9095
Feb. 7—Live Comedy
Feb. 13—Oreo Blue
Feb. 14—Skyboply

STONE'S THROW

Feb. 5-7—Dear Ruth

Feb. 12-15—Dear Ruth

CORDELL-WILSON BOOKSELLERS

Feb. 7—Poetry Slam

CHAMPS

782-4944

Feb. 6-7—Scott Ellison
Feb. 10—Deborah Coleman
Feb. 13-14—Raisin' Kane

MEMORIAL HALL

Feb. 21—Blessid Union of

Souls and Alure

SPIVA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Feb. 20-March 22—PhotoSpiva exhibit

Kansas City

THE BEAUMONT

Feb. 18—Spacemonkeys

MEMORIAL HALL

Feb. 7—Third Eye Blind

Tulsa

MABEE CENTER

Feb. 20—Bryan White and LeAnn Rimes

Shrine Auditorium

April 24—Audio Adrenaline, Supertones, and Jennifer Knapp, 7:30 p.m.

Springfield



After spending the fall months opening up for rock legend U2, Third Eye Blind heads out on their own with a show in Kansas City Saturday night.

REGIONAL
NEWS
BRIEFSDepartment announces
new designs for bypass

The Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) has announced that it has scheduled a public hearing from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday regarding the proposed design of the Range Line Bypass. The public hearing will be held at MoDOT's Southwest District Office.

The purpose of the public meeting is to obtain citizens' comments regarding design plans for the Range Line Bypass, a four-lane freeway that will run from U.S. Business Route 71 at Carterville to Missouri Route 66 (Seventh Street), approximately three miles east of Joplin. The bypass will provide an alternate route east of Joplin and a more direct access to I-44 and U.S. Route 71. The public hearing will have an informal, open-house format in which participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss the project with MoDOT representatives.

Maps, plats, an environmental impact statement, and other detailed information will be available for inspection and copying at MoDOT's Southwest District Office. □

Senator to speak at local Lincoln Day celebration

U.S. Sen. Christopher "Kit" Bond of Missouri will be the speaker Saturday at the annual Jasper-Newton County Lincoln Day celebration in Joplin.

Other guests will include the Republican leader of the Missouri House, Delbert Scott of Lowery City; Missouri Sen. Peter Kinder (R-Cape Girardeau); U.S. Rep. Roy Blunt of Missouri's Seventh District; and U.S. Rep. Jim Talent of the Second District.

Bond is to present the annual Republican Service Award, which honors a person who has given outstanding service to the party, said Sherry Surface, chairwoman of the Jasper County Republican Central Committee.

The Missouri Capitol Singers will perform.

The event will be staged at the Ramada Inn, 3320 Range Line. Dinner is scheduled for 7 p.m. after a 6 p.m. social hour. For ticket information, persons may call 624-5694, 781-1095, 358-6346, 325-5444, or 451-3095.

Talent will speak during a luncheon that day at the Banquet Center, 3316 Main St. Proceeds will benefit the House Republican Campaign Committee. For details, persons may call 624-5694 or 781-1095. □

Freeman to consolidate, renovate DaySurg area

On Monday, the Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee granted Freeman Health System a certificate of need for the consolidation of its cardiac and respiratory services.

The services are currently located throughout the hospital. Consolidation of these services will allow Freeman Hospitals and Health System more efficient care and easier access for patients.

The services will be consolidated in the new Freeman Heart Center.

The construction of the Heart Center will involve renovating the former DaySurg area and building a three-story addition adjacent to the east wing of Freeman West. The center will contain 34,803 square feet of space, with 26,802 square feet of new construction and 8,001 square feet of renovated space. The renovation will cost approximately \$6.3 million, with \$4.9 million designated for clinical areas of the center and \$1.4 million allocated to the construction of medical office space.

The project is scheduled to be used for clinical services, and the third floor will be dedicated to office space for those providing cardiac and respiratory services. □

DISABILITIES SERVICES

City, College need ADA improvements

Inaccessibility plagues downtown Joplin

By MARLA HINKLE
STAFF WRITER

Discrimination of all kinds exists today, and individuals with disabilities often suffer the consequences of a society that is unprepared to provide the necessary resources.

"Discrimination against individuals with disabilities still persists here in Joplin as well as other cities, mainly in such areas as public transportation and public accommodations," said Rosalyn Crockett, member of the board of directors at the Independent Learning Center (ILC) in Joplin.

P.T. Daily, a disabled Joplin resident, has experienced some discrimination in the access to public transportation and inaccessible areas.

"The city of Joplin has a long way to go, especially in some areas downtown where there is no sidewalk and places for wheelchairs," Daily said.

Mary Catherine Krause, co-chairperson of the ADA committee for the city of Joplin and ADA specialist, says even though some streets may be inaccessible for individuals with disabilities, it may not be the state's responsibility in some areas but rather the city's.

"The ADA act states that if cities

do provide sidewalks then they have to be accessible," Krause said. "If you are looking at any of the streets in Joplin, some of those could be state-owned streets, so you have to look at exactly where the dividing line is between city and state property."

For example, Krause said the curb at Seventh and Florida is state owned and it is the state's responsibility to make certain it is accessible to the needs of the community.

According to Krause, Joplin is currently complying by having an ADA advisory committee that looks at all the different facilities that the state itself owns, and working on Memorial Hall, which needs a considerable amount of renovation to be fully compliant. The committee has already had 12 meetings and discussed the seating arrangement and parking areas.

Some other areas being discussed are making sure that the areas in the hall are prepared for disabled persons, such as having the microphone lowered to the speaker's level. The law requires the committee to do a self-evaluation, which takes a long time because of all the property.

"We have looked at the policies and procedures under Title II,



JASON FOSTER/The Chart

Some of the streets and older buildings in Joplin are inaccessible for people with disabilities, according to Mary Catherine Krause, co-chairperson of the ADA committee for the city of Joplin and ADA specialist.

which is what this city falls under," Krause said.

"They have to look at programs the city operates, and if a disabled person cannot go in and participate, then they have to modify their procedures."

Missouri Southern does comply with some regulations set forth by the act, said Melissa Locher, disabilities coordinator.

"We offer many services to the disabled students, and the physical plant continues to update and

install door openers for students in wheelchairs," Locher said.

Services provided by the Learning Center include offering extra time to take tests and scheduling classes to allow them sufficient time between classes so they can reach the places they need to.

There are also books on tape used by the vision impaired and learning disabled students available at the center.

"Our main goal is to try to meet the needs of the students based on

individual requirement," Locher said.

Krause said Southern is not fully accessible for her.

"The bathroom on the first floor of Webster Hall is not wide enough for my wheelchair, and Fred Hughes Stadium has only three seats made for wheelchairs," Krause said.

"Many places just have the appearance of being accessible; these places need to be fully ready to really comply with the ADA." □

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Citizens search for chief

By KIKI COFFMAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Candidates will find that attaining the coveted position of Joplin police chief requires more than just skill when the city manager makes his selection in April.

A citizens' search committee, comprised of a cross-section of the community involving representatives of local schools, hospitals, and other professions, met for the first time on Monday to analyze the characteristics needed in a new police chief.

"The citizens' search committee will compile a profile of the future police chief and evaluate the criteria combined with the basic characteristics we're already looking for," said Matt Allen, assistant to the city manager.

The city's human resource department has informed the media, and announcements advertising the position have run in most local publications and law enforcement journals.

"As with any position, there is a basic criteria of skills and abilities that you need in any job," Allen said, "such as being able to bend over and pick up at least 20 pounds and so on."

"[The new police chief] must have at least a bachelor's degree in law enforcement, political science, or criminal justice. We want them to have had at least seven years in a supervisory managerial position in similar type work to what they will be doing. Or they could, instead, have a master's degree in law or political science, which will substitute for one year."

"They must be certified, or able to quickly be certified, in law enforcement in the state of Missouri."

Capt. Richard Schurman, acting police chief, said he applied for the position and expects a favorable response.

"Due to my 25 years of experience, my education, background, and my knowledge of the Joplin area, I believe I deserve the job," he said.

Former police chief David Niebur left in

December to take a job in the Chicago area offering a change of pace and a substantial pay raise. The application deadline is Feb. 28, with a decision expected by mid to late April.

"We're expecting anywhere from 60 to 80 applicants," Allen said. "Right now I believe we have something in the neighborhood of 20. There will be some that don't fit the requirements right off the bat, but we'll have plenty to choose from."

Finalists will be given a questionnaire concerning issues important to the citizens' search committee. There will be an actual interview and simulations of real-life situations that the candidates would face in the capacity of police chief. The simulations will gauge each person's leadership abilities, as well as his skills at handling stress and keeping priorities.

"There is an extensive testing period, but that's only necessary," Schurman said.

"This is an important position in that it is highly visible in the public," Allen said. "Everyone knows who their police chief is. People are concerned because it relates to their safety, their degree of feeling safe at home, in parks, or at shopping centers."

Allen said although change can be expected, sometimes it is a little uncomfortable waiting for a balance.

"Anytime you lose a person who successfully fills a position at a significant level, you feel a void, especially in such a visible position. It's a natural void, but things go on," he said.

The "void" is currently being filled by Schurman and city manager Steve Lewis, who will be consulted for any issues impacting policy. Allen said the job of police chief is tougher than it seems.

"I think that most people don't realize that the police chief is also part of a working team of 10 to 12 people in the city and that he has to be a staff member as well as a leader. It goes beyond a badge and holster type of thing," Allen said. □

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



TIM WILSON/The Chart

The area around exit 4 on Interstate 44 has been the subject of debate recently. An annexation proposal for 2.5 square miles was defeated by voters Tuesday.

Proposal dies after vote

By KIKI COFFMAN
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Appropriating land outside of the city will have to wait after an annexation proposal failed to pass on Tuesday.

The annexation needed a two-thirds majority approval and received 59.6 percent of the vote. Rob O'Brian, president of the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, said the issues surrounding the annexation would have to be acknowledged.

"There are some significant details around the exit 4 area, concerning businesses and particularly in regards to the sewer treatment," O'Brian said.

The plan faltered passing by 7 points, falling short of the total percentage needed to achieve proposal success. With the annexation twice failed, no proposal to annex the 2.5-square-mile area

may be made in the next two years.

Dick Weber, chairman of the board of the Chamber of Commerce, remarked on the people involved in the campaigns.

"There are a handful of people out there who are opposed, but there are more people who are in favor. The people who are vocal on either side are the same groups of people from before," Weber said.

Weber indicated annexation was intrinsic in promoting growth in Joplin. "There is no such thing as standing still. You are either moving forward or you are moving backward," he said.

O'Brian put a positive spin on the measure's defeat.

"I think it was a team effort," he said. "The Chamber of Commerce and the city staff worked hard to get the information out to the public, and I see an increase in public awareness concerning the annexation." □

JOPLIN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

La Near to present seminar highlighting investments

Program stresses saving, analyzing stock market

By HEATHER DEMIER
STAFF WRITER

Saving and managing money are common goals for many individuals when it comes to planning for the future.

Dr. Richard La Near, professor of business and holder of the J.R. Kuhn chair in finance, will present a series of six investment workshops that will enhance the knowledge of business finance.

The seminars will be offered from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, Feb. 10 through March

17th at the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, 320 E. Fourth St. The cost is \$35 per session or \$175 for the entire series.

"The origination of the idea came from my two regular daytime classes, Investments and Security Analysis," La Near said. "Several people have requested that I teach them at night."

La Near said he does not want to teach a night class on a regular basis because he enjoys being with his family during the evening. These six non-credit courses are a "compromise" because they allow him to spend more time at home and still give others the opportunity to learn more about the subjects.

Peggy Fuller, membership director at the

Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, said workshops similar to this one are extremely well received.

"People are looking for new ways to educate themselves, and the Chamber is a good avenue for this," she said.

La Near's topics will include "How to Get Rich," "Understanding Interest Rates," "How to Analyze the Stock," plus highlights from his regular Investments and Security Analysis classes.

"You've got to save money or you can't get rich," La Near said.

Understanding interest rates is a must because "they're so important for investing and saving," La Near said. He will answer questions such as "What determines interest

rates? Are they too low or too high? Why can you get a fixed 30-year-mortgage at 7 percent now?"

At these workshops, participants will also have the opportunity to learn about such items as planning for retirement, customizing their own stock portfolio, and when to obtain a loan, La Near said.

"Dr. La Near certainly has a reputation of a wealth of knowledge that he can give to our members," Fuller said.

"I would recommend this to anyone who is looking for knowledge about their own finances or their business."

For more information, individuals may contact La Near at 625-9530 or the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce. □

STUDENT REGENT

Closed meetings under scrutiny

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Less than one week before Missouri Southern's student regent is to take office, legislation that would permit student representatives from all state colleges to attend closed regent board meetings has been introduced in the House.

The bill sponsored by Rep. Craig Hosmer (D-Springfield) would also allow a faculty representative from each state college to sit in on the meetings.

The proposed legislation would not grant student and faculty representatives voting privileges.

Hosmer has sponsored similar legislation over the last five years. He is confident the bill, currently awaiting committee

approval, will have strong support in the House. An identical bill proposed last session was unable to gain Senate approval, which Hosmer says "is an attempt to protect the status quo."

"The House tends to be more of a representative body," he said. "The arguments against [the bill] are not very valid. I don't even think they believe them."

One such argument made by opponents of the legislation is that these representatives might leak privileged information from a closed meeting to the public.

Doug Carnahan, dean of students at Southern, was quick to dispel such an argument.

"I don't think there would be any more danger of a student leaking information than any other regent member," he said. □

A CAPITOL GAME



AARON DESLATTE/The Chart

Students from St. Peter's Catholic School shoot some hoops next door to the Capitol Building.

DEPARTMENT OF THE JUDICIARY

Circuit court automation initiative 'long overdue'

Jasper County sets deadline for software management upgrade

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

After dealing with an excess of 50 calls throughout the course of a day, employees of the Jasper County Circuit Clerk's office have grown to resent the telephone.

While not yet to the point of cursing Alexander Graham Bell, County Clerk Kathleen McGuire says eyes roll and tempers fray when callers ask for a case update.

McGuire says her employees' temperament or lack thereof is because the callers should be able to get the information themselves.

In 1994, the General Assembly approved funding to be used to automate the state's court filing system. The system would link every county's court case management systems and drastically elevate the overcrowded caseloads county clerks must currently deal with.

"The new system is person-based rather than case-based," said State Court administrator Ron Larkin.

"This means it will be easier for court staff to identify individuals associated with cases in different court divisions. The new system increases efficiency in a number of areas. Many tasks that were performed manually, like scheduling court dates, can happen automatically."

But to date, the automation system has been implemented only in Montgomery County.

Despite the delays, McGuire says her office is ready for the upgrade.

"Our infrastructure is completely in place," she said.

McGuire said her office has added 40 computers and two file servers in anticipation of the automation. Now all that her office is waiting on is Jackson County.

Jackson is scheduled as the second pilot site to receive court automation before Jasper County, and McGuire says the tentative date for her office's automation is dependent on when Jackson County completes its test run of the software. Jasper County is currently scheduled to go automated July 1.

"If Jackson County has a problem, it may be late summer or early fall before we go on," McGuire said.

Once the management system has been installed in all of Missouri's counties, the Electronic Courts project will work toward electronic filing, reducing storage burdens, and providing the public with access to court information via the Internet, according to a report from the clerk's office of the Supreme Court. □

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

Bill cracks down on student loan debtors

By AARON DESLATTE
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. — Higher education officials have mixed emotions regarding an attempt by state representatives to crack down on student loan defaulters.

While exuberant that legislators are trying to address the problem, Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) staff members are unsure a proposed bill will make that much of a dent in the number of defaulters.

The legislation, which is awaiting higher education committee approval in the House, would restrict issuance and renewal of certain professional licenses and registrations for failure to repay student loans.

But CBHE officials are afraid that won't be enough.

"What [the bill] can do is only part of the problem," said Paul Wagner, CBHE research assistant. "Most of the people who default on their student loans are the people who don't complete their schooling."

Wagner says the proposed bill would affect only a fraction of current loan defaulters in Missouri.

Another problem stems from where the student loan came from, Wagner said.

"The bill can only be applied to loans made through the State of Missouri Loan Program," he said. "It addresses all that it can, but that's not the whole picture of people who default on their student loans."

Wagner says more than 50 percent of current loan defaulters received their educational funding from federal loan programs, which would not fall under the jurisdiction of the CBHE.

Rep. Craig Hosmer (D-Springfield), who sponsored the legislation, said the intent of the bill was to target only those who were financially able to repay student loans and choosing not to do so.

"We're not going after people who can't pay," Hosmer said.

"We've got a number of people who are defaulting in Missouri. These people have jobs. They have the ability to pay their loans but choose to pay other bills. When someone doesn't pay back loans, it hurts others who are trying to get student loans."

Hosmer added that it was not in the power of the state government to penalize citizens defaulting on federal loans.

"The only thing the state can take away is what the state gives," he said. "If passed, powers given to state agencies for enforcement of the bill would include:

Authorization for the Department of Higher Education to withhold any state payment, including tax refunds and lottery winnings, to defaulters.

Authorization for the Department of Education to refuse licensing or renewal of license for teachers.

Licenses for insurance agents and brokers will not be issued or renewed by the Department of Insurance.

Defaulters would not be allowed to take the bar exam, and attorneys would not be allowed to renew their annual license fee.

Requiring of the Division of Professional Registration to maintain a registry of licensees, in which the student loan repayment status of each licensee is indicated. □

STATE NEWS BRIEFS

Lybyer fights PSC to protect Community Option Service

Senate Appropriations Chairman Mike Lybyer (D-Huggins) has taken steps to protect outstate consumers against the loss of a cost-saving phone service option that's being threatened by the state's Public Service Commission (PSC).

Lybyer has introduced legislation that would place the current Community Option Service (COS) into state statutes to protect it from changes made by the PSC.

The COS service allows rural consumers to pay a single flat rate to call local exchanges that otherwise would result in long distance charges.

Last fall, the PSC ruled the service could be eliminated at the end of March.

Both the proposal and the lack of public hearings by the commission had drawn criticism from outstate lawmakers and both political parties.

Lawmakers in both the House and Senate have passed a resolution asking the PSC to conduct public hearings to reconsider the ruling to end COS. The PSC has indicated it will ignore the Legislature's request. □

Legislation takes aim at Transportation Department

Missouri House Speaker Steve Gaw (D-Moberly) announced on Tuesday a package of legislation aimed at bringing the Missouri Department of Transportation (MODOT) into line with state procedures on oversight, budgeting, salaries and employee health insurance.

The plan sponsored by Rep. Koller (D-Summersville) and Gaw is a multifaceted approach to dealing with the department and its projects. It would create a Joint Committee on Transportation Oversight. The committee would be made up of five representatives and five senators who would work with the Transportation Commission overseeing MODOT's budget and construction project priorities.

Another portion of the Koller-Gaw bill would charge the commission with the task of appointing a chief executive officer to run the day-to-day operations of the Department of Transportation. Currently, that task is handled by the department's chief engineer.

Rep. Koller and Speaker Gaw are also sponsors of a constitutional amendment which would require MODOT to submit a budget to the Governor and the General Assembly.

It would also bring the Department of Transportation's employees into the state's uniform classification and pay system.

Along those lines, House Majority Leader Gracia Backer (D-New Bloomfield) has introduced a plan which would mandate detailed accounting from the Department of Transportation. □

St. Louis lawmakers propose state charter school system

Senators Franc Flotron (R-Chesterfield) and William Clay, Jr. (D-St. Louis) have joined several St. Louis lawmakers in proposing charter school legislation.

Charter schools are independent, public schools of choice, which are granted charters by a sponsor.

The charters are binding contracts detailing academic goals and education methods.

Recognized nationally for providing accountability for results, charter schools increase parental involvement while offering choice to families.

Flotron has introduced charter school legislation for the last five years.

"It's time Missouri joined 30 other states and the District of Columbia by passing charter school legislation," Flotron said.

"I believe we as elected officials have a moral responsibility to provide the children of Missouri every possible opportunity for educational achievement, and charter schools are one option we must do."

The bill would allow charter schools to offer a comprehensive program of instruction for one grade or age group up to grade 12, including kindergarten and early childhood education. □

BUDDING ARTISTS



AARON DESLATTE/The Chart

Jefferson City elementary students examine exhibits at the Art Forum day in the Capital Building.

Students offer free tax help

By JALYN HIGGINS
STAFF WRITER

Members of the Missouri Southern Accounting Club will be offering tax help to those who can't afford professional assistance.

"We, absolutely free of charge, will prepare federal and state tax returns for the elderly, low income, and disabled taxpayers," said Dr. James Shaver, professor of business.

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service has chosen Southern's Accounting Club to help the community.

"It's a wonderful program for my students to get practice, and it is a benefit for the community," Shaver said.

VITA will assist tax filers by completing Forms 1040A, 1040EZ and 1040. This will also include all exemptions, deductions, and special credits for those who are eligible, and assistance will be available for those completing the Missouri state income tax forms.

All of the students offering help have enrolled in a one-hour course and have also been given some additional training. They have already taken courses on correctly filing the federal and state income tax forms.

This is the ninth year Southern students have offered this service to the community, but things will be done a little differently this year.

Along with approximately 30 accounting students, six students from an upper-level Spanish class will also be present to assist Hispanic-speaking filers.

The services will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. each Saturday in the Joplin Public Library through April 11.

Tax filers interested in getting help should bring their W-2 forms, interest statements, and other important documents along with a copy of their 1996 tax return.

SAFETY: Some worry about students travelling internationally

From Page 1

called NAFSA: Association of International Educators, and they have put on a Web site since the [Guatemala] incident, and it has tips and advice."

Those travel tips can be accessed at <http://www.nafsa.org/mediaupdate/promote.html>.

At the time of the incident in Guatemala, three female students from Missouri Southern were doing an internship in neighboring Belize. They made the trip without a faculty sponsor.

"I think our students are as safe there as anywhere here," said Dr. Jim Jackson, professor of biology. Jackson arranged the trip and has been to Belize himself.

"They are probably in less danger when we have made a solid commitment with a

professional from that country than when we send them with a faculty member," he said.

The students who went to Belize agreed that they felt a greater degree of safety because of their native connections, but that did not insulate them from danger.

"We had a problem with some street boys who kept following us and even came up to our hotel room," said Kendra Millard, December biology graduate.

Katherine Kochler, sophomore pre-nursing student, is in Guatemala this week serving as a Spanish interpreter for a team of surgeons. She said she was not worried about her safety because she lived in the country for six years. Others were not so confident, and the trip was almost canceled until the U.S. Embassy or the Guatemala government arranged

for an armed escort to accompany the team.

Kochler advises travelers not to wear jewelry or flashy clothes, not to be overly friendly with the natives, and not to carry large amounts of cash.

"It's important to have the right contacts, especially if you don't know the language," she said. "You need someone who can help you get hotels in the right neighborhoods and advise you about bus transportation."

"I also suggest that there be one male for every two females in a group."

Massa hopes the recent alarm about travel safety will not keep students home.

"I certainly don't want people to be afraid to travel," he said. "No matter where you go, there are certain precautions you have to take."

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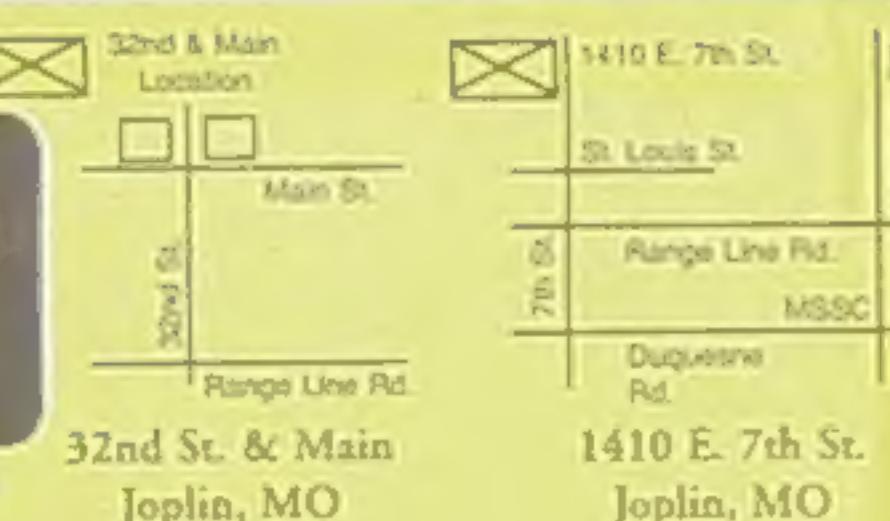
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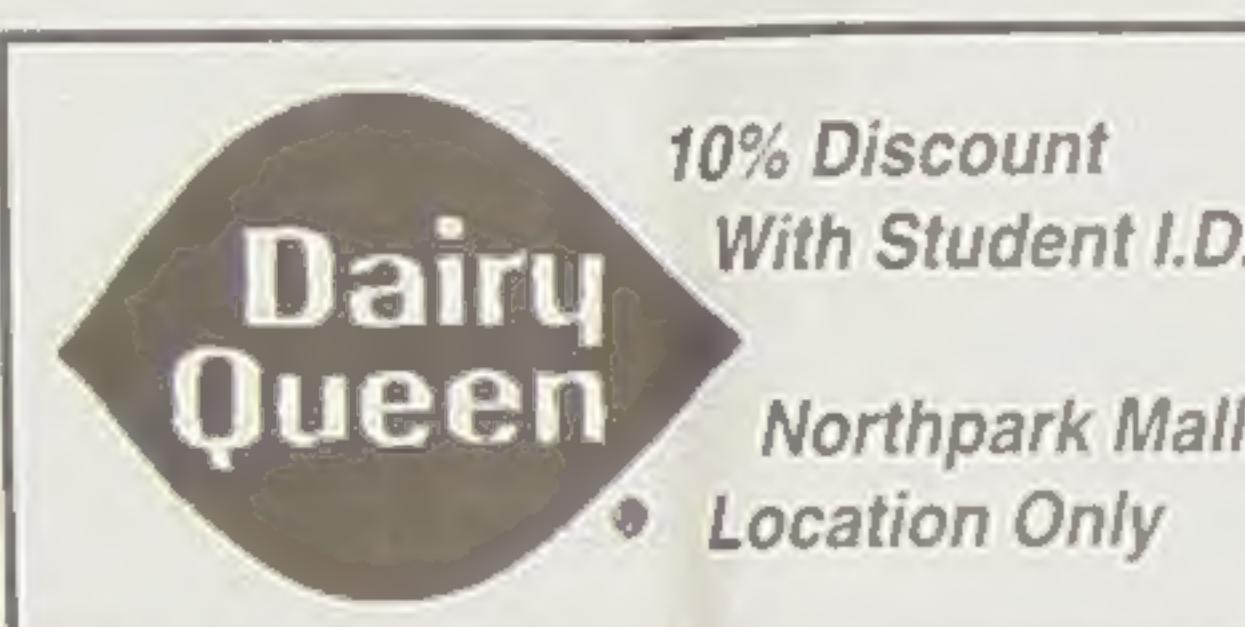
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PIZZA



Dalana Lofland takes her leadership responsibility as a senior seriously. Lofland is now competing in her final indoor track season.



JASON FOSTER/The Chart

Senior sprinter steps it up

By JOE ECKHOFF
STAFF WRITER

Being the lone senior on the team comes with some hidden pressures. Each year, Missouri Southern senior sprinter Dalana Lofland has had more responsibilities tacked onto her shoulders.

This year the role of team leader falls to her.

"I feel more responsibility, and I have a positive attitude about it," Lofland said. "If Coach [Patty Vavra] isn't going to be there, I usually am in charge in our workout."

Coming from rural Wyandotte, Okla., Lofland has had to make some big adjustments. The greater degree of competition

forced her to work much harder than she did in high school.

"It was a big adjustment because in high school we had a small track team, and we weren't really forced to do our workouts," Lofland said. "If you're going to compete, you have to work hard everyday and be very disciplined."

Lofland started getting interested in track in junior high.

"When I first started, I was stuck running long-distance, and I didn't like that," she said. "Then I ran sprints."

After high school, Lofland wasn't really thinking about running at Southern.

"I decided I wasn't going to run track, and I was going to go to another school

(Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College)," she said.

"They didn't have a track team, so I decided to go to Southern."

The senior runner is looking to make her final year a memorable one. Lofland's competition experiences will still impact her life after her track career is over.

"Being my last year, I've tried to work real hard and have one to remember," she said. "You always have to work hard to get anywhere and always have to do your best."

Vavra said Lofland's work ethic spills over to the other members of the squad.

"Her attitude and desire is different," Vavra said. "She goes out and gives 110 percent day in and day out. She gets the job done." □

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

By the Numbers

They ran things exactly like we liked them to do. They were poised, they kept their composure, and they did some nice things.

Lady Lions fail in late run, fall to Lady Bearcats

By SUSIE FRISBIE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

When a come-from-behind effort, sparked by senior leaders as well as relatively inexperienced younger players, fell short, the Lady Lions suffered a disappointing defeat Tuesday night to conference rival Southwest Baptist University.

Southern (3-18 overall, 1-10 MIAA), which had been down by as many as 29 points, jumped back into the game but still came up short, finishing 76-64.

The Lady Lions got off to a slow start, but were able to get back in the game. However, the Lady Bearcats kept Southern quiet at the end of the first half, going on a 10-0 run with three minutes remaining in the half.

"SBU is one of those teams that plays extremely physical on the defensive end," said Southern head coach Amy Townsend. "When they're in their place, it's even more physical. They kind of turn it up another notch when they're at home."

That tough inside play also helped the Lady Bearcats on the offensive side of the board as they opened the second half with a 7-0 run.

However, Southern would not go down without a fight.

Senior KaTonya Samuels had eight of 10 field goals and had seven rebounds, four steals, and three assists. Shelly Oliver made seven of 10 field goals with seven rebounds and one blocked shot.

"The two seniors played great."

Townsend said, "I thought those two stepped up their games a little and decided it was time for them to take charge."

With young players like freshman Kasey Doss making a significant contribution to the Lady Lions' comeback, Townsend was optimistic.

"I know the younger ladies that got to play were fired up," she said.

"They ran things exactly like we asked them to do. They were poised, they kept their composure, and they did some nice things. I think that says something about our future."

That poise and composure is something Lady Lion sophomore Chara Oldfield believes is vital to the success of the remainder of the season.

"We need to keep everybody up, keep trying, and keep everybody focused,"

she said. "We need to have a confidence that we can win."

Confidence is something Townsend believes was gained during the loss to SBU.

"We were able to walk out of the game with our heads held high," she said.

With only five games left of the season, Townsend believes at least three victories are needed for the Lady Lions to qualify for the conference post-season tournament.

Southern will begin its quest for a berth in the tournament at 6 p.m. Saturday in Young Gymnasium against Northwest Missouri State.

"Right now our outlook is really bright," Townsend said. "The critical thing for us to do is to pull out a couple of victories."



Freshman forward Stacy Wyatt puts up a shot against the University of Missouri-Rolla during their match up in Young Gymnasium on Jan. 21 which the Southern won 62-77.

TRACK

Indoor team faces trials

By JOE ECKHOFF
STAFF WRITER

After a rare weekend without a meet, Missouri Southern's indoor track and field team is back in action this weekend at the University of Kansas.

"The competition will be quite a bit tougher this weekend," said men's coach Tom Rutledge.

One surprise move by the team was the redshirting of thrower Doug Culver, one of the team's best.

"Doug has a 4.0 grade-point average, he is going to be here for four years, and he would have been one of the best throwers in the conference this year," Rutledge said.

Even though Culver would have been one of the top throwers in the conference, he will now have another year to get stronger.

"It was his decision," Rutledge said. "I try to do what is best for the athlete, and it is hard to get to nationals. He can get bigger and stronger for the next two years."

Though the team has been struggling in some areas, Rutledge says his team continues to work hard.

"It's a good group of guys who do the best they can, and we'll take it," Rutledge said.

Also this weekend, the Lady Lions will be back in action at the University of Kansas.

"It will be the most competitive meet we've had," said women's coach Patty Vavra, "outstanding, top-notch competition, and our full team will not be competing."

With conference competition just three weeks away, the Lady Lions are hoping to continue to improve.

"During the indoor season, we're looking to see improvement each week to build for conference in three weeks," Vavra said.

Having a week off between meets was a good and bad thing, she said.

"It gave us a chance to train a little harder," Vavra said. "The meets are more stressful, but our workouts are harder."

Overall, the schedule break could benefit the Lady Lions down the road.

"This was the type of week we needed for conference in three weeks," she said. □

Sports SCOPE

Get on your feet or get the box scores

OK, so maybe this hasn't been a year filled with glorious sports victories. And maybe the Lions of all sports haven't produced all that many games that would cause Lion fans to become radically fanatic about their team.

So what? While it's true that part of the fun of rooting for your team is watching them overcome their opponents, it's also true that a big part of being a fan is



Ginny Dumond
Associate Editor

sticking with your team through the hard times and rooting ceaselessly for their underdog victories.

We, as Lion fans, are watching those two scenarios unfold as the basketball season gears up for the homestretch. Now, the Lady Lions will more than likely be glad to kiss this season goodbye come Feb. 21. The men, on the other hand, are about to give us fans something to get excited about — post-season play.

Here's where the subject gets sticky. Excitement is something that seems to have been sorrowfully lacking in Young Gymnasium.

Perhaps part of the problem comes from the fact that the student section is totally separate from the pep band, and maybe part of the problem is that fans think there's nothing expected of them.

Well, with the men headed for post-season play there is no time like the present for Southern students to step up and take control of that gym. Erratic fan participation is part of the tradition of college sports, but college basketball in particular.

When I picture what college basketball should be, I see the painted fans swaying back and forth while the opposing team shoots free throws. I see signs supporting home team members, and I hear them calling "De-fense" or "Overrated." I hear Dick Vitale screaming "They're on their feet, the crowd loves it!"

Having grown up watching the Cameron Crazies live up to their name at Duke, I'm partial to high-energy, high-emotion, fans-on-their-feet basketball. It didn't matter if the Blue Devils were on the road to the championship game or praying for a berth in the NIT; those fans still rocked the house and created an environment where anything could happen.

It has recently been rumored that boisterous fan activity of most kinds was against College policy. According to men's athletic director Jim Frazier, those rumors are false. In fact, the MIAA, as it turns out, is just about as liberal as they come on game behavior.

Why is it, then, that fans are not bringing in signs and waving streamers, painting their bodies, and screaming during free throws?

Apparently it comes down to complaints from those who have had to sit behind such activity in previous seasons. They don't like having their view blocked by those standing.

I have a simple solution for those dissatisfied patrons — stand up and join the fun, be part of the game, be an encouragement. You might just enjoy the experience. If you're not going to enjoy the game, just stay home and check the box scores. □

MEN'S BASKETBALL

SBU downs low-scoring Southern



NICK PARKER/The Chart
Junior guard Mario Phillips goes up for a shot against the University of Missouri-Rolla Miners in a game held at Southern Jan. 21. The Lions outscored Rolla 87-75.

By GINNY DUMOND
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Poor offensive production plagued the Lions Tuesday night as they fell 67-45 to bottom-dwellers Southwest Baptist University at Bolivar.

It was the Lions' lowest point total since a 69-51 defeat to Drury College in 1974.

"For some reason, in my nine years, we have played well at Southwest Baptist only one time, and that was last year when we beat them," said Robert Corn, head coach.

Southern is now 13-8 overall and 6-5 in the MIAA. SBU is 9-11 and 2-8.

"If we hadn't played well defensively, we'd have been blown out at the half," Corn said.

SBU held a 26-16 halftime advantage as the Lions made only four of 15 field goals. For the game, Southern hit 11 of 39 field goals (28 percent) and was out-rebounded 39-22.

"They did a nice job of taking away the inside, and we had some trouble with their zone," Corn said.

Senior team captain Terry Mills was particularly disappointed with the loss.

"With a win last night, we're tied for fourth [in the MIAA]," Mills said, "and you never know what could happen after that. Washburn might

slip up and lose another one."

Mills thinks this loss will force the Lions to reevaluate things before Saturday's home game against No. 1 Northwest Missouri State. The Lions will enjoy a three-day break after ending a five-game-in-11-days series in Bolivar.

"I think the break comes at an excellent time, because they're (Northwest) going to come out and play their hardest," Mills said. "If we don't come out and meet their intensity, it could be a long night."

Despite the Lions' win one, lose one pattern, Corn is optimistic as the team heads into the home-stretch.

"We're heading in the right direction," he said. "Right now it's just a situation where we need consistency."

"We've got two or three guys that are being consistent every game, and another two or three that one day they're good and the next they're average," he said.

"We are playing a nine-man rotation right now, so we need that consistency out of everybody."

With only five games remaining, the Lions need to win three or four to position themselves for the MIAA post-season tournament.

"We'd love to have an opportunity to host a first-round game," Corn said. □

BASEBALL

Spring comes early for squad

Turner and team prepare for month of road trips, non-conference schedule

By SUSIE FRISBIE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

This weekend the Missouri Southern's baseball season will go into full swing by taking on NCAA Division I Oklahoma University.

Head coach Warren Turner believes the Sooners, along with conference rivals Central Missouri State University and Pittsburg State University, will be one of the toughest teams they face this season.

The Lions will be on the road throughout the month and won't return home for their home opener until Feb. 28.

Turner believes the experience the team received last year will be beneficial to the success of this year's team. Last year the Lions were 27-23.

"Last season couldn't have been better," Turner said. "You win as many as you lose; that's what we like to do. You learn from losing, you learn from winning."

Senior right fielder R.J. Forth will help provide leadership for the team.

"We try to help the new players along with what we call growing pains and playing pains," Forth said.

"We try to make sure they're doing the right thing so we can have the best year we can."

This leadership will pay dividends, according to the younger players.

"I just want to do what I can, take in as much as I can, and watch the older guys to see what they

You learn from losing, you learn from winning.

Warren Turner
Lion Baseball Coach

do," said freshman outfielder Daniel Weston. The goals that drive this team are universal.

"We've got a good team and we're hoping to win conference and go from there," Forth said. "There are nine seniors on the team, so we're trying to go as far as we can."

The baseball field is not the only place the Lions work together as a team.

According to Turner, the team has this year participated in 30 community projects and raised more than \$20,000 for charities, including the Ronald McDonald House and the March of Dimes.

The team was also responsible for serving 1,400 people at a recent College banquet.

"We teach a lot of things besides baseball, including integrity, honesty, and civic responsibility," Turner said.

Turner believes there are underlying goals that are more important than a victorious season.

"Our No. 1 goal is to get an education, No. 2 is to serve the College and the community, and No. 3 is to play baseball," Turner said. "There is life after baseball." □

66



DEBORAH SOLON/The Chart
Sophomore Lion baseball catcher Tucker Hagedorn hits during pre-season practice. Their season kicks off Saturday and Sunday at Oklahoma University.

FOOTBALL

18 ink letters of intent on first official signing date

By SUSIE FRISBIE
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Because Brad Cornelisen's reign as quarterback and leader of the Missouri Southern Lions' football team will draw to a close at the end of next season, finding someone to fill his shoes has been a major focus of this year's recruiting effort.

On Wednesday, Missouri Southern announced the signings of 18 players to letters of intent, including three from high school quarterbacks.

"Quarterbacks are usually the leaders of their team," said Kenny Evans, assistant football coach and recruiting coordinator.

"These three are all very athletic, which means they can move to another position if they had to," he said. "We think all three are can't miss players, and all three are great students."

In fact, many of this year's recruits have excelled academically. Five of the recruits will receive academic scholarships, and one is the valedictorian of his class. The average ACT of the recruits is above 21.

One of those players vying for Cornelisen's

position is Webb City senior Josh Chapman. Chapman led the Cardinals to the Class 4A state championship title last fall.

"I'm fortunate to have the opportunity to watch him (Cornelisen) for a year and kind of model myself after him," Chapman said.

Chapman impressed Evans with more than his play on the field.

"We know he's a winner, and he's also proven that he's a winner in the classroom," Evans said.

"He's a very good student with a high ACT score. He's the type of person we want in the program."

The program at Southern also offers Chapman something he believes is valuable — a renewed dedication to discipline.

"I think coach [Greg] Gregory has a good discipline system," Chapman said. "That's what you need in football. Coach Gregory has the talent to make Southern a top program in Division II."

Evans believes Chapman will have an advantage going to a local school.

"I think it's a plus in the long run for Josh to go to a local school," he said.

"He's going to be the one everyone in this area focuses on. If he does well, which we

anticipate he will, he's going to grab headlines."

Chapman's decision to attend Southern can also be attributed to baseball. Chapman plans on playing both sports at Southern next year. Warren Turner, head baseball coach, also helped in recruiting him.

Other high school signees are Joey Ballard, running back, Muskogee (Okla.) High School; Mike Cheatham, defensive end, Rogers (Ark.) High School; Larry Crenshaw, running back, Chelsea (Okla.) High School; Ray Davie, defensive back, Vian (Okla.) High School; Aaron Hasty, offensive lineman, Camdenton (Mo.) High School; Tony Kildow, quarterback, Bentonville (Ark.) High School; Jon Ludike, running back, Waynesville (Mo.) High School; Seth McKinzie, quarterback, Gravette (Ark.) High School; Joey Mitchell, defensive back, Rockwell (Texas) High School; Juan Tabb, fullback, Lindbergh (Mo.) High School; and Jeremy Tennison, defensive lineman, Ozark (Mo.) High School.

Semester signees, who joined the Lions at the start of the spring semester, are Ben Beeler, center, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College; Travis French, center,

Independence (Kan.) Community College; Chris Osborne, fullback, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College; Jeff Smith, running back/wide receiver, Toronto, Canada; Shawn Williams, running back, Roane State Community College, Harriman, Tenn.; and Cody Sensinaffer, running back, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College.

According to Gregory, the 1998 class of signees was heavy in the offensive backfield, an area of concern when he was hired in December.

"We needed running backs, because we did not have any returning from last season, and this is what we got," he said. "We signed seven running backs, we got three good young quarterbacks, we signed the best offensive linemen we saw on tape, we got three defensive linemen who should all be players here, and we got two good defensive backs."

Evans is optimistic as to what this year's recruiting effort will produce on the field.

"We're just inches away from being a championship football team," he said. "The addition of these players could put us over the top." □